

LATE TESTIMONY



Legislative Testimony
HCR 157, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian
Affairs

March 24, 2008
Room: 312

10:30 a.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** H.C.R. 157, which would request the University of Hawai'i to draft a five-year strategic plan for a graduate degree program in cultural resource management at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

This State has a constitutional mandate, statutory requirements and a history of caselaw that forces it not to simply consider Native Hawaiians and their culture and traditions, but to preserve and protect Native Hawaiian culture and traditions. OHA sees this resolution as an attempt to both address this dire need and move toward fulfilling this important mission.

Time has demonstrated a history of adverse impacts on precious cultural and environmental resources, community well-being, and economic stability - all of which could have benefited in some way from the support of a trained cultural professional. Further, federal and state agencies face a constant need for professionals who are trained in cultural resource management, and agencies are often untaught or unknowing of the mandates which require them to protect Native Hawaiian cultural resources.

Therefore, OHA supports this resolution, which would develop a strategic plan for the creation of trained cultural resource managers. We urge the Committee to PASS H.C.R. 157. Thank you for the chance to testify.